

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION MISSOURI SERVICE-LEARNING



## **What is Service-Learning?**

School-based service-learning combines meaningful service to the community with classroom studies in a way that improves student learning and strengthens the community. Students work in collaboration with community members, teachers, and classmates to meet real community needs, while applying core concepts from the regular classroom curriculum. Students develop responsibility and citizenship while increasing academic achievement.

## **History of Service-Learning**

The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 created a new federal agency known as the Corporation for National Service. The Corporation's purpose is to provide funds, training, and assistance to states in order to develop and expand service opportunities for young people. A portion of this national legislation created the Learn and Serve America Program for state departments of education to fund local schools that wish to implement Service-Learning.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has received federal dollars from the Corporation for National Service in order to administer the Missouri Service-Learning Grants Program. Approximately \$270,000 has been awarded to Missouri's public schools for the 2002-2003 school year for local service-learning programs. Currently 34 school districts across the state receive Service-Learning Grants with over 25,000 students and 1,500 teachers in grades K-12 participating.

Missouri also belongs to Campus Compact, an organization for colleges and universities using Service-Learning as part of their higher education program. Twenty-six universities and colleges are currently members.

## **Grants Available**

No new competitive grants will be given for the 03-04 school year. Mini grants will be given for implementation of the Civics and Service-Learning CHECH Up Curriculum pending funding.

## **Meeting Missouri's Educational Goals**

Service-Learning assists in meeting the **Missouri Show-Me Standards** through all academic areas and all four process goals. It helps prepare students for the **MAP** by giving students the opportunity to demonstrate critical thinking and problem solve in a real-life situation, much like the MAP's performance type questions. Service-Learning also supports the goals outlined by the State Board of Education in Missouri's **Meeting the Challenge** document, especially the recommendation encouraging students to participate in the life of the community.

## **Show-Me Service Conference**

Representatives of Service-Learning grant sites and anyone interested in National Service Programs including Learn and Serve, AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and VISTA are invited to attend the Show-Me Service Conference in October. We come to celebrate the beginning of another year of service and academic achievement. Workshops will provide an opportunity to gather information, exchange resources, and share innovative ideas.

*For More Information Contact*

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